

First Generation
Jaques Corteljou (Jacques Cortelyou)
(b. abt 1625, d. 1693)
(Excerpts from *The Cortelyou Genealogy* by John Van Zandt Cortelyou)

THE NEW WORLD

The Cortelyou family did not come to the New World to escape persecution or to participate in the founding of a new order. The family, in the person of young Jaques, came to New Netherland because of a job and, quite likely, because that job seemed to offer the possibility of some adventure and perhaps a career in foreign parts. But for the time it was a definite job for a limited period. And this is how it came about.

On November 7, 1651, the Honorable Cornelis van Werckhoven, one of the schepens, or city fathers of old Utrecht, gave notice to the Amsterdam Chamber of his intention to plant two colonies within the territorial bounds of New Netherland. It was not for permanent settlement that van Werckhoven himself crossed the ocean but rather to make an on-the-spot study and then return to his home town of Utrecht, where he did not even resign his place on the City Council.

A trip to America with one's family was no small task in those days. There were many details to be covered and it was desirable to wait for a season that normally offered fair skies for the passage of the North Atlantic. One of the important problems that had to be solved was how the two sons of van Werckhoven were to continue their schooling. Van Werchhoven's wife did not accompany the party, as far as we know, and there are facts that suggest that she may not have been living.

Whether the Corteljou and van Werckhoven families were friends or how otherwise the Councilman got in touch with young Jaques are details that have been lost. But Jaques' qualifications must have measured up to a good standard to justify his selection to accompany the family as tutor for young Pieter and Cornelis van Werckhoven. (*Note that in Dutch, j is pronounced like the y in year, and ou and au have the sound of ow as in how.*)

The plans progressed and on April 4, 1652, the Directors of the West India Company wrote to Petrus Stuyvensant in New Amsterdam of van Werckhoven, "who goes there with a goodly number of souls to take possession." (N.Y. Col. Hist. Vol. XIII, p.33).

On Monday, April 26, 1652, there was a meeting of the City Council of Utrecht, the general governing body of forty members, of whom eleven were schepens. The burgomaster presided. The minutes of this meeting include an elaborate "Valedictory of Mr. Werckhoven going to New Netherland," which included the statement that "His Honor had the intention, if it were pleasing to God, of himself making a journey there and back, begging that the absence of His Honor might be

excused, and hoping that having returned with the aid of God, he might continue in the service of the City with advice and deeds."

Doubtless it was not long after this meeting that Jaques bade his family in Utrecht farewell and either went with the van Werckhoven party to the port of departure or met them there. In September 1687, when Jaques swore allegiance to the British government, he stated that he had been 35 years in the colony. This tends to confirm the statement that he arrived with the van Werckhoven party in 1652.

Of the number van Werckhoven had induced to go, and of the voyage nothing is known. But, at best, the cramped quarters and day-to-day incidents could not have been conducive to very much study on the part of Pieter and Cornelis.

During the two years, 1652-1654, that van Werckhoven remained in New Amsterdam, Jaques Corteljou was presumably giving much of his time and attention to the education of the van Werckhoven boys. This circumstance cannot be passed without giving thought to Jaques' place in the educational system of the day. This has been weighed by William Heard Kilpatrick, in *The Dutch Schools of New Netherland and Colonial New York, U.S. Bureau of Education Bulletin*, 1912, No. 12, Mr. Kilpatrick devotes Chapter 7 (p110) to a discussion of the "The Private Schoolmasters of New Netherland." In this he says:

"Reserving for the moment the discussion of the formal private schools, attention may be called to two known cases of private tutors. One of these, Aegidius Luyck, ... The second tutor, Jacques Cortelyou, is perhaps a more important personage than Aedidius Luyck. He was the first settler and early patron of New Utrecht and the founder of the well-known Cortelyou family of this State.

Cortelyou came over to America about 1652, apparently in order to serve as 'tutor to the son of the Hon. Mr. Weckhoven.' Unfortunately, we know nothing of his teaching career other than the bare facts above stated; but his contemporaries have left numerous comments upon the man himself. Dominie van Zeuren, of Long Island, for instance, submitted a disputed salary case to Cortelyou when he was 'the justice of New Utrecht,' remarking in connection that 'he, although not of our religion, is a man of good understanding, especially in philosophy and in the mathematics of Descartes.' (*Ecclesiastical Records of the State of New York*, p.718).

Dankers and Sluyter, those eccentric religious enthusiasts, say of him (Cortelyou) 'he had studied philosophy in his youth and spoke Latin and good French. He was a mathematician and sworn land surveyor. He had also formerly learned several sciences and had some knowledge of medicine. The worst of it was, he was a good Cartesian and not a good Christian, regulating himself and all externals by reason and justice only.' (*Long Island Hist. Soc. Publications*, I, 128)

Many evidently even in more favored times have had tutors less learned and less capable than had Van Werckhoven in this Jacques Cortelyou."

It may be suggested that Jaques' daily association with van Werckhoven between 1652 and 1654 was, among other things, a liberal education in land matters. Doubtless Jaques accompanied his employer on some or all of the latter's inspection trips. And it also looks as though he might have taken time off from tutoring to do

surveying for his chief, thus serving an apprenticeship for the appointment as official surveyor, which came to him 1657.

It seems fair to assume that the departure of van Werckhoven, disappointed because his ambitious dreams were unrealized, and frail in body that he was destined to die in Holland the following year (1655), brought busy days for Jaques. It had been decided that the latter would remain in America as van Werckhoven's agent, and this must have meant long conferences and minute instructions.

Then came the sailing day, with the dispatch of Jaques' own letters to the folks back in old Utrecht. And he may have joined the little group that often formed on sailing days at the "weeping place" – near the corner of the present Whitehall Street and State Street – and watched Cornelis van Werckhoven's ship drop down the Bay with the tide. Henceforth, Jaques was on his own, alone in the New World.

JAQUES' PARENTAGE AND SCHOOLING

Before we proceed with Jaques Cortelyou's career in the rough and raw Far West of his day, let us investigate briefly his start in the land of dikes and windmills, of gay tulips and excellent cheeses.

Put together the fact that van Werckhoven was a leading citizen of Utrecht in Holland, that the new settlement was called New Utrecht, and that Corteljou was an educated man, and the path leads to the old University of Utrecht. This seat of learning was founded in 1636. No record exists of the students during the first seven years. In 1643 it was decided that a book should be kept in which all students were to inscribe their names and indicate the places from which they came. This book is now in the City Archives in Utrecht. It contains the autographs of thousands of students who came from all parts of western Europe to study at the University between 1643 and 1685, when the second volume was started. For the first year (1643) two hundred seventy names appear. This is nearly double the number for the years immediately following, showing that not only new arrivals but the whole student body were rounded up. The one hundred fifty-seventh name proves conclusively that this was our American pioneer. There is nothing to indicate whether he had been a student for some time, or whether 1643 was his first year. His name was not repeated.

It was common practice for students to Latinize at least part of their names. Following this custom, Jaques called himself 'Jacobus' (James). To this he added "Ultraiectinus" (or Ultrajectinus), meaning "of Utrecht."

But a careful search of the baptismal, marriage and death books of the lists of persons moving into the town, and of other records of the city and of the Dutch Reformed Church of (old) Utrecht, produced no trace of the name Corteljou. Only one other source remained. There were in Utrecht, as in other Dutch cities, a number of French Protestant refugees who had fled from persecution in the Catholic provinces now comprised of Belgium and France. These Walloons, as they were

called, had their own church. This congregation still survives in Utrecht. In the records of this Walloon church are eight references to the name Corteljou (Cortelyou). These are not complete, but in default of evidence to the contrary, a family can be inferred, to which it is more than probable that Jaques Corteljou belonged. These entries, translated from the Walloon records, copies of which are kept in the City Archives of Utrecht, are as follows:

- 1612, April 14. Married, Jacques Cortillon and Elsken Hendricks.
- 1612, Dec. 13. Baptised, Abraham Courtillon, son of Jacques Courtillon.
- 1636, June 6, Married, Jerosme Bastairoux, native of Castelnau de Magnac, soldier under Mr. Estrade and Jeanne Courtailieu.
- 1637, Feb. 5. Married, at the request of the Flemish Brethren, Guilleaume Benet and Jenneken Courtailot.
- 1640, May 25. Married, Blaise Paillot and Judith Courtailot.
- 1663, May 3. Married, Pierre Courtillie, young man of Utrecht and Jeanne Grenier, young woman of Ardensburg.
- 1663, Dec. 7. Died, Elsje Henricx, widow of Jacques Courtaillijo, in the Teelingstraat, leaving mature children. Buried in St. Nicholas Church.
- 1684, Nov. 9. Died, Judith Courteleau, wife of Blaysius Pailhot.

The variations in spelling are not unusual for records of that period. We, therefore, assume that Jaques Corteljou, a Walloon, was in Utrecht soon after the year 1600. In April 1612 he married Elsken (or Elsie) Hendricks. In December of the same year their first child was baptised Abraham. Three daughters – Jeanne, Jenneken, and Judith – grew to womanhood and married young Frenchmen in Utrecht. It was probably about 1625 that the second son, Jaques, was born. He was named Jaques (Jacques) after his father, the almost invariable custom with second sons; the first son was usually named after his paternal grandfather. Soon after marriage of his three sisters, Jaques attended the University in his home city, where we find him in the enrollment of 1643. Cornelis can Werkhoven took his two sons and their tutor, Jaques Corteljou, to America in 1652. Jaques' father, the elder Jaques, may also have been living in 1652, but he certainly died before 1663, when his widow, Elsken Hendricks, was laid to rest in St. Nicholas Church, still standing at last reports a few blocks from her home in Teeling Street, in Utrecht. Nothing, aside from his baptism, is known of Abraham, unless he grew to manhood and became the father of Pierre, who was married in May 1663. The fact that Elsken Hendricks is stated to have left "mature children" when she died in 1663, gives support to whole hypothesis.

The fragmentary nature of these Utrecht records is not surprising. Many cities have no records at all for such an early date. Moreover, after the Walloon families had been in Holland for some years, they often drifted in to the Dutch churches, some of whose records have disappeared. There was a Jacques Courtillion, handle-maker, with his wife, Marie Babesorre, and several children, in the Walloon church in Amsterdam in 1693. Aside from the name, there is nothing to suggest a connection with the Cortelyou's of Utrecht.

While this solution of the origin of the Cortelyou family is not conclusive, it is in harmony with all the known facts. It explains their French extraction, with Holland merely a stopping place on their way to America. And this, in turn, shows why the name is not found in Holland today.

And now let us return to the New World and take up the thread of our narrative approximately where we dropped it.

JAQUES CORTELJOU REPORTS IN 1654

The first reference to Jaques Corteljou in official records of New Amsterdam is found in a letter of Director-General Petrus Stuyvesant dated June 13, 1654. This was, roughly, two years after Jaques' arrival. The letter reads in part as follows:

"We have again heard yesterday some... rumors and news told by an Englishman to several of our subjects, among others to Govert Loockermans, Pieter Wolfertsen, Jacob van Couwenhoven, and Jacques Corteljou, tutor to Mr. Van Werckhoven's son, who reported the same to us, to-wit, that the English to the North recruit soldiers, giving 25-30 guilders per month, and that three large ships were to come into the Bay..."

New Amsterdam, June 13, 1654 P. Stuyvesant"

JAQUES APPOINTED SCHOUT

That Jaques Coreljou was in general favor in New Netherland during this early period is indicated by an incident which occurred in the summer of 1654, probably soon after van Werckhoven left for Holland. Democratic ideas were stirring in the minds of the people, and a petition had been sent to the old country, praying for a large share in the management of their affairs. This request received such favorable consideration that Director-General Stuyvesant was instructed to set up a city government. These instructions, issued in April 1652 must have reached New Amsterdam at about the same time that van Werckhoven's party arrived.

What was involved and how Stuyvesant went about carrying out the orders from Holland are summarized in *History of the State of New York*, Columbia University Press, 1933, vol. I, p. 309, as follows:

"In April 1652 the Amsterdam Chamber prepared to make some of the concessions which had been asked, and Stuyvesant was instructed to give New Amsterdam a 'burgher government.' The citizens were to elect a schout, two burgomasters and five schepens, who were to constitute a court.

Nevertheless, it was not till February 2, 1653, that the proclamation establishing this government was actually issued, and then Stuyvesant retained in his own hands the appointment of the officials, as well as the making of ordinances 'even in New Amsterdam.'

As the Amsterdam Chamber had advised, the officials were all of Dutch nationality, the first such discrimination in the province and due to the war then waged by England and Holland.

Thus was established the oldest city government in the country, and a court which existed till merged in the Supreme Court of the State of New York in 1895.

The meeting place was the Stadt Huis (Town Hall) originally built for a city tavern. The Court, with both civil and criminal jurisdiction, met every week. It was only by degrees, however, that this body gained anything like full power to regulate municipal affairs; at the first, Stuyvesant even claimed the right to preside whenever he chose."

The appointment on which the greatest delay occurred was that of schout, an office combining the duties of sheriff, prosecutor, and president of the magistrates. Jochem Pietersen Kuyter was named to be schout, but as O'Callaghan quaintly explains (*History of New Netherland*, vol.II, p. 268) 'he had been unfortunately murdered in the course of this year by the Indians.'

Then came the offer of the post of schout to Jaques Corteljou. We do not know whether Jaques had even an inkling that he would be appointed to this position. It would seem that he had given neither Stuyvesant nor members of the Council any reason to believe that he would accept. In any case, he felt that he would be too greatly handicapped by the accompanying "instructions" and his decision to refuse the post was definite and final.

PIONEER SURVEYING

Persistent inaccuracies concerning Jaques Corteljou are (1) that he was "the first surveyor" of New Amsterdam and (2) that he "made the first map." Both of these errors appear, for example, in the chapter of "Biographical Sketches," in *Valentine's History of New York City*, pp.134-5. As will be seen later, Jaques did not make the first map. And it is clearly a misstatement to say that he was the first official surveyor, for O'Callaghan's *Register of New Netherland*, p 37, enumerates three men who served in that capacity during the fifteen years prior to 1657.

Apparently, there was some uncertainty or dissatisfaction with the lines laid out by a previous surveyor, because Jaques was asked by the Magistrates of Gravesend to "survey once more with a compass..." certain land in and around Gravesend. Doubtless Jaques Corteljou's survey was satisfactory for no complaints are mentioned in the Council minutes.

Even in the head offices of the West India Company, in Amsterdam, Jaques' talents were known. Perhaps van Werckhoven had reported them when he returned to Holland. On December 19, 1656, the Directors wrote to Stuyvesant concerning the acquisition of the Swedish colonies on the Delaware and gave directions as to the establishment of a government at Fort Casimir (Newcastle). The communication said:

As we have heard that there lives on the bouwery of the late Mr. Werckhoven a certain party, being well versed in the engineering and surveying, who consequently might be of service to the said new Colony, as well in laying out lots chosen for the dwelling-houses of the colonists as in other ways, therefore your Honors will, upon request, persuade the said engineer thereto and let him go thither, to make a good beginning and location..." (*N.Y. Col. Hist.*)

In *Iconography of Manhatten Island*, IV, p. 180, Stuyvesant and his Council are quoted, under date of June 3, 1657, as favoring the assignment of Jaques Corteljou for the survey work on the Delaware, for the reason that he was acquainted with Jacob Alrichs, the Swedish official at Fort Casimir.

No references have been located to show that Jaques visited the Delaware settlement, but the fact that he knew Alrichs, plus his propensity for investigation, would make this seem quite likely. In such a case he would have followed the Indian Path across New Jersey, which was later to be the home of many of his descendants.

Regardless of the Deleware matter, it was not for long that Jaques found himself in the anomalous position of making public surveys without benefit of official appointment. When the Executive Council of New Netherland met on January 23, 1657, it received a petition from Jaques Corteljou that he be named Surveyor General. (*Executive Council Minutes*, VIII, p. 422) This was authorized, Jaques salary and fees were fixed and his oath of office recorded – all on the same day.

The years between Jaques' first appointment, in 1657, and his death in 1693, constitute a period of rapid development, as well as of transition from Dutch to English rule. That Jaques was in favor with the English regime is indicated by the fact that he was re-commissioned in March 1670/1671, by Lovelace, the English Governor.

NEW UTRECHT

The land which became known as New Utrecht was granted to Heer Cornelis van Werckhoven, who undertook to plant a colony there. As we have seen, he came to New Amsterdam in 1652. Two years later he returned to his Fatherland, where he died in 1655. He had left Jaques Corteljou as his agent in New Netherland.

After the death of Heer van Werckhoven, Jaques, having no means to procure settlers for the colony, was advised "not to allow the beautiful land to be unfruitful and without inhabitants," and as he was assured that such a course was "in direct opposition to the orders and placards of the Noble and Right Honorable Lords Directors of the West India Company at Amsterdam, our Patrons; as also of the Noble Lord Director, General Petrus Stuyvensant, and the Counsellors Nicasius de Sille and John Montagne Senior," he concluded to direct to the Director-General and the Counsellors the following petition:

"To the Noble and Right Honorable Director-General and Council of New Netherland. Whereas no lands here can be laid out and settled except with your Honor's approbation and consent, therefore the petitioner addresses himself to your Honors for consent to found a Town on Long Island on the Bay of the North River. Ja: Cortilliau, agent for the heirs of the deceased Cornelis van Werckhoven"

In the margin stood: "Let the petition be granted provided that they deliver by the first opportunity a map thereof to the Director-General & Council."

Volume VIII, p. 424-5 of Dutch MSS in the office of the Secretary of State says this petition was presented and granted on January 23, 1657.

Accordingly, Jaques laid out and surveyed the place and divided it into 20 lots containing 25 morgen (50 acres) each, which lots were assigned to the following founders, who were desirous of making a settlement:

"Jaques Cortilliau; The Heer Councillor & Fiscaal Nicasius de Sille; Pieter Buys; Jacob Helleckers, alias Swart (Swarthout); Jancker Jacobus Corlear; Johan Tomasse (Van Dyck); Rutgert Joesten (Van Brunt); Pieter Roeloffse; Cornelis Beeckman; Johan Zeelan; Albert Albertson (Terhune); Willem Willemsen (Van Engen); Huybert Stoeck; Pieter Jansen; Jan Jacobsen; Jacobus Backer; Jacob Pieterse; Claes Claessen (Smit); and Teunis Joosten." (*MS History of N.U.*, pp. 19-21). Patronymics in parenthesis are not in the original text, they were added by the compiler.

Thus the highest governing body in the Dutch settlements sanctioned the enterprise, and "in memory of the old Dutch city which was his birthplace, as well as his patron's, Cortelyou named the village New Utrecht." (*Documentary History of New York*, I, p. 633.)

Actually, Jaques' acquaintance with the New Utrecht location dated back to his arrival in 1652. For Augustine Heermans, acting for van Werckhoven, had bought two Long Island tracts – one of them Najack – some six months before the vessel bearing van Werckhoven and Jaques nosed her way through the Narrows. For the New Utrecht area, including Najack, he had paid the Indians "6 shirts, 2 pairs shoes, 6 pairs stockings, 6 adzes, 6 knives, 2 scissors, and 6 combs."

Van Werckhoven had been in New Amsterdam for a year and a half, when the handful of villagers by that time on Long Island became so incensed over his development plans that they met together to protest. The outcome of the meeting was a remonstrance, presented to Director-General Stuyvesant and his Council under date of December 12, 1653. This remonstrance recited:

"...that the Director conveyed last year, 1652, to Mr. Cornelis van Werckhoven, a considerable tract of valuable and clear land, situate within the jurisdiction of Gravesend, which land had been previously granted in the 1647, by Director Willem Kieft, deceased, to diverse persons, and divided by lot in 21 parts, whereof, the Poor of this place had two parts and every other person one part." (*Calendar of Historical Manuscripts*, vol.I, pp. 133-4; *Council Minutes*, V, pp. 160 et seq.)

The reading of this communication fell upon deaf ears, for Stuyvesant and his Council declined to recognize the remonstrance. And, what is more, they refused to admit that the convention that presented it had any standing.

There was no other authority on this side of the Atlantic to whom the protesting Long Islanders could appeal. So when Jaques Corteljou started the New Utrecht settlement it was with a clear title from the administration in power. There was, of course, the matter of claims to ownership of the New Utrecht area by the Indians. Basically, the theory of the day appears to have been that the whites were the

owners anyway, but that it was good business to go through the form of buying from the Indians. The narrative of the Labadists, who visited Jaques Corteljou in 1679-80, recounts that Jaques had purchased the Najack tract from the Indians on two separate occasions.

And so Jaques launched the New Utrecht settlement, running the lines necessary to lay out the tract in lots, and for his own home choosing the Najack location, with the house on the bluff that commanded a sweeping view across the Narrows to Staten Island and over the Lower Bay to the Navesink Highlands, Sandy Hook and the open gateway to the Atlantic.

The 1652-56 period probably witnessed the high-water-mark of Dutch migration to America, so it is unlikely that Jaques had great difficulty in lining up his group of New Utrecht settlers. Jaques and Neelje Corteljou and some others built homes on their farms, but the majority located close together, forming the nucleus of the village which existed as New Utrecht until it was swallowed up two centuries later by the growing city of Brooklyn.

In de Sille's *Account of the Founding of New Utrecht*, it is stated that:

"The (twenty) individuals having received their lots (of 25 morgen or 50 acres each), came together so as speedily to advance the place by sowing, planting, and building on their lots. Whereof the first was Jacob Hellekers Swart, he having a small square house made of clapboards standing in Gravesend, which he tore down and removed to the town."

The early years at New Utrecht had no lack of active interests. Jaques was getting his own Najack farm on a production basis. He was helping the other settlers get started. And he was going here and there on surveying assignments that must frequently have kept him away for days at a time.

In 1659 there was a lack of prosperity in New Utrecht. In the background was a matter which probably brought to Jaques some uneasiness, the question of validity of his title to the Najack tract.

Cornelis van Werckhoven came to America, presumably, to build up an enterprise which would show him profit. With real estate to be had by purchase from the Indians for a trifling amount of barter goods, plus approval of a friendly administration, van Werckhoven probably had visions of quick, easy and worthwhile gains.

When Jaques took over the New Utrecht enterprise, it was frankly as the agent of the van Werckhoven estate, Cornelis having died in Holland in 1655. The next chapter was that the estate began calling for an accounting, and presumably, looking for remittances. This led to a five-cornered correspondence involving (1) the van Werckhoven executors in Holland, (2) their attorneys in New Netherland, (3) the West India Company in Amsterdam, (4) Stuyvesant and his Council, and (5) Jaques.

It is not difficult to reconstruct the situation. The big profits from the Hudson River settlements were largely due to the fur trade at the period when the hinterland was unspoiled and the Indians were willing to bring in peltry in exchange for barter goods.

If van Werckhoven had been able to duplicate the operations of some of the up-river patroons, he might have gotten some revenue from a peasant-type of tenantry engaged in agriculture, but New Utrecht was not destined to operate on the peasant and landlord system. The settlers were newly established on not-too-large farms. They had to build their homes and barns, fence their fields, stock their holdings, become acquainted with the soil and establish a suitable rotation of crops. Little actual money was handled and at the end of the year there could have been little or no surplus.

No evidence can be found that Jaques defied the claims of the van Werckhoven heirs. His answer to their claims was that, in the first place, he ought to be paid the "sums due him by writings, acts of notary public, and advanced money." Bergen states: "There is documentary evidence showing that van Werckhoven left debts which Corteljau paid; and it may be that his claims equalled the value of the property." (*Address on Annals of New Utrecht*).

In May 1659 the Director-General awarded additional meadow land to New Utrecht. In the drawing which followed, two of the twenty-four lots were given to "the plantation of Heer Werckhoven." This would seem to indicate that Jaques and the van Werckhoven heirs had come to an agreement. Jaques "Cortilliau" himself received one lot, No. 15. (*MS. Hist. Of New Utrecht*, p.33)

After 1660 the van Werckhoven estate appears to have relaxed its demands upon Jaques. Then, in 1664, came the switch-over to English rule. But still Jaques' title to his Najack home was not entirely flawless. In 1671, however, the matter was settled, and though it means a jump over some busy years, the end of this particular story is continued here.

In the archives at Albany there is a much-worn document. It looks as though it had been carried in pockets and wallets, passed through many hands. On the back is the endorsement: "Capt. Jaques Corteljou, Surveyor genll, his Patent."

The date is February 23, 1671, and the signature is that of Francis Lovelace, English Governor of the Province of New York, and good friend of Jaques. This is the document catalogued in 1864 in Calendar of New York Colonial Manuscripts as: "Deed from Gov. Lovelace of land at Najack, in the patent of New Utrecht, upon Long Island. (*Land Papers*, vol. 1, p. 43.)"

The patent reads as follows:

"FRANCIS LOVELACE Esqr One of the Gentlemen of his Maties Honbl Privy Chamber and Governor Genell under his Royal Highness JAMES Duke of York & Albany &c: of all his Territoryes in America; To all to whom these Presents shall come sendeth Greeting.

Whereas Jaques Cortelijou, Surveyor Genell stands possest of a certaine parcel of Land lyeing and being within the Lymitts of the Patent of New Utrecht in the West Rideing of Yorkshire upon Long Island, beginning at the Pointe of Naijack, soe stretcheth amongst the Bay to ye Common Strand way, and from thence along the said Strand way to the Way reserved for Out-Drift of Cattle and soe amongst the said Out-Drift Way to the North-west Hook or Corner of the Swamp or Creuppell Bush, from thence strikes with a Westerly Line to the ffence at Naijack, & amongst the said ffence to the River, and then againe amongst the River to the Pointe of Naijack aforemenconed, which said Parcell of Land amongst a greater quantity now in possession of the Towne the said Jaques Cortelijou did heretofore with Leave of Authority make purchase of from the Indyan Native Properietors and hath been at Considerable Charge in making Improvement thereupon. Now in confirmation unto him the said Jaques Cortelijou in his possession and enjoymt of ye Premises; *Know Yee* that by vertue of ye Commission & Authority unto me given by his Royal Highness I have Ratifyed, Confirmed, & Granted, & by these prsnts doe Ratify, Confirme, and Grant unto ye said Jaques Cortelijou his Heyres & Assignes the afore-recited parcell of Land & Premisses, with all and singular the Appurtenances; To have and to hold the said parcell of Land & prmisses unto said Jaques Cortelijou his Heyres & Assignes, unto the proper use and Behoofe of him the said Jaques Cortelijou his Heyres and Assignes forever. Rendring & Paying such Dutyes and Acknowledgements as now or hereafter shall be Constituted and Establisht by the Lawes of this Government under the Obedience of his Royall Highness his Heyres and Successours. Given under my Hand and Sealed with the Seale of the Province at ffort James in New Yorke this twenty third day of february in the 24th yeare of his Maties Reigne, Anno Domini 1671. Francis Lovelace. Recorded by Ordr of the Governor, the day and yeare above written, Matthias Nicolls, Secr.

Among the points to be noticed in this patent are: (1) the absence of surveying terms and the use of natural landmarks in the descriptioin, (2) the absence of reference to prior ownership by van Werckhoven or others, and (3) the mention of purchase from the Indians.

The simplicity of the description is perhaps due to the fact that the tract was described as "beginning at the Pointe of Najack" and following landmarks that were then so obvious that no further measurements or points of the compass were thought necessary.

The lack of reference to prior white ownership suggests that the van Werckhoven claims were dropped after the changeover to English rule in 1664 and that the new regime was ready to clear his title and confirm him in possession of the Najack tract.

So far as the mention of purchase from the Indians is concerned, Henry C. Murphy, discoverer and translator of the Labidist's manuscript, quoted elsewhere, advances that theory that Dankers and Sluyter may have been correct in saying that there was more than one purchase. Murphy suggest that Jaques may have gone through with a late purchase – not otherwise recorded – "for the purpose of aiding him with a title by possession." And the mention of such a purchase from the Indians in the 1673 patent looks as though it may have been quite recent. (*Journal of a Voyage to New York in 1679-80*, page 127.)

At any rate, Jaques was now confirmed in the possession of Najack, an ownership which he and his descendants were destined to enjoy for the ensuing two centuries.

MAPPING THE MANHATTANS, 1657-1662

In the several biographical sketches of Jaques Corteljou it has been stated that he was the "first surveyor" in the Dutch colony and made the "first map of New Amsterdam," neither of which statements is correct. There were a number of early charts of the New Netherland region as a whole and several plans of New Amsterdam. An important map, gathering up all the earlier material was made in 1693.

On January 23, 1657, Jaques Coreljou was appointed Sworn Surveyor and on April 19 of the same year was evidently at work on the second general survey of the city, the first having been made the previous year. Jaques completed this 1657 survey by May 3, - the result altering the streets, lots and fences considerably in some localities.

In April 1658 the Burgomasters decided not to grant any more lots until "a map thereof is made." Moreover, they asked Governor Stuyvesant "to order the Surveyor to draw as soon as possible a map of the lots" within the city. There were delays, the result being that once more, on August 30, 1658, Corteljou was instructed to prepare a map of the lots within the city of New Amsterdam. But there were further delays. September passed. Finally, when Stuyvesant, as was his custom, had prepared a letter by way of report to the Honorable Directors of the West India Company, to be carried to Holland on a ship sailing on the next high tide, Jaques Corteljou appeared with his finished map. Stuyvensant hastily added a postscript to his letter of October 6, 1658, saying:

"After closing our letter the Burgomasters have shown us the plan of the city, which we did not think would be ready before the sailing of this ship."

On December 24, 1658, the Directors wrote Stuyvesant, acknowledging the receipt of the plan and making certain observations as to open spaces, which might increase the difficulty of defense in case of attack upon New Amsterdam.

This city plan of 165 is not known to be extant.

On June 7, 1660, Jaques was again ordered to prepare a plan of New Amsterdam and this third assignment resulted in producing a map that has brought him wide credit. It is not known just when he began checking his former surveys and running new lines. Doubtless he had many other things to occupy his time and attention. There were delays. On January 26, 1662, he appeared "on summons" at the meeting of the Burgomasters, held at the Stadhuis, and was "asked how he progressed with the map of the City." He replied that as far as he was concerned it was done and had "already been in the hands" of the draftsman "for six weeks." He said the draftsman, Jacob van de Water ,promised 'to have it ready this week.'"

This map shows not only a detailed city plan drawn to scale but on each lot appear a front elevation picture of the structure which occupied it, with additional indications for gardens, orchards, bridges, and fortifications. These drawings were necessarily small but they were good. This is the map which Jaques turned over to the authorities and which is declared by Phelps Stokes in *The Iconography of Manhattan Island* to have been "the most complete and accurate of any map of any city in the New World north of Mexico, at that period, - not excepting French and Spanish maps."

This map of 1660-1662 was sent to Holland. What became of it is not known. But probably around 1665-1668 a copy of it was made by an unidentified draftsman who used pen and ink and water colors. This copy found its way to Italy, where until 1921 it was preserved in the Villa Castello, near Florence. Hence the copy of Jaques' map is known as "The Castello Plan." Framed copies of both the Castello plan and Phelps Stokes' redrafting hang in the collection of early American maps and plans on the third floor of the New York Public Library.

SLAVE HOLDING

Negro slaves were not a novelty in New Netherland when Jaques Corteljou arrived for the Dutch were both slaveholders and traders who supplied slaves to the English colonies.

In starting the settlement at New Utrecht there was hard and heavy work to be done, and it was not long before Jaques acquired a Negro man. This is apparent from an official order dated November 28, 1658, directing "Jaques Corteljou's negro to work with the other negroes." (*Calendar of Historical Manuscripts*, vol. VIII, p.1046).

It is fair presumption that Jaques continued to operate the Najack tract continuously with the aid of slave labor until his death in 1693, when a Negro man and a negro woman constituted the first item on the inventory of his estate.

THE MATTER OF LANGUAGE

The New Amsterdam to which Jaques came was a truly cosmopolitan community. It was as much a "melting pot" as the New York of a later John Fiske, in Dutch and Quaker Colonies in America, points out that more languages were probably to be heard within the confines of the little Dutch settlement at the mouth of the Hudson than in all the New England coastal area running northeast to the Penobscot.

The Labadists are authority for the statement that, in addition to Dutch, Jaques "spoke Latin and good French."

So far as English was concerned, he did not even have to wait for the commencement of the English regime in 1664, for the English settlements on Long Island were not far from the Dutch villages and there was much contact between the races.

Then, too, Jaques was appointed to various offices by the English and served on commissions and sat as a member of the Court of Sessions with Englishmen, without any suggestion that language was a barrier. But though Jaques could certainly speak English freely, he appears to have been chary of writing it. In fact, of the extant documents in his handwriting, it is not recalled that anything is written in English.

It looks, too, as though Jaques may never have felt quite at ease in reading English, for when the Labadists borrowed his folio volume of laws, the latter were "in very bad Dutch, for they had been translated from English into Dutch." If doubt remained about Jaques' aversion to writing English, it would be dispelled by an examination of a map on file at Albany (*Land Papers*, vol. I, pp. 214-5.) This is a draft of seven lots at Flatbush which Jaques surveyed incident to a lawsuit of Dirck Jansen ("Klyn Dirk") Hoogland against Peter Lott. Jaques sent this map to the Governor on June 13, 1681. It is signed by him and bears annotations in his handwriting. But these are in Dutch and the map as filed on August 8, 1681, is accompanied by an English copy in a different handwriting. The later is endorsed "A true translation made by me P. DeLaNoy."

The purpose of this last-mentioned survey is interesting. Each of the seven Flatbush lots was specified to be 600 rods in depth and 26 rods in width, front and rear. But, by a variation of the compass, the rear of all the lots was made narrower. "Little Dirk" Hoogland insisted upon having his full measure; hence, the lawsuit against his neighbor, Peter Lott. (*Hoogland Family*, p. 163).

Still another language that Jaques could probably use to at least some extent was that of the Indians, for some of the later lived on his Najack property and his surveys repeatedly involved tracts which had been purchased from the Indians. Gerret Van Duyn could speak the Indian tongue and various other Long Islanders are referred to in records as having the same ability, but Jaques does not chance to be mentioned in this connection.

THE BEGINNING OF BUSHWICK, 1660

One of the old-time villages now included in the present-day Brooklyn, is Bushwick. This was one of the areas of Dutch settlement which Jaques Corteljou had an important part in starting. In *The Eastern District of Brooklyn*, by E.L. Armbruster, New York, 1912, p. 22, bare facts are given thus:

"February 19, 1660. On this day the Director-General (Stuyvesant) with the Fiscal, Nicasius, DeSille, and His Honor Secretary Van Ruyven, with the Sworn Surveyor, Jaques Cortelyou, came to Mispat (Maspeth) and have fixed upon a place between the Mispat Kil and Noorman's Kil to establish a village, and have laid out by survey twenty-two lots on which dwellings will be built."

This incident is similarly referred to in Ostrander's *History of Brooklyn and Kings County*, vol. I, p. 100.

COMMUNIPAW AND BERGEN, 1660-1667

Records indicate that upon several occasions Jaques was called upon to load his surveying outfit into a boat and journey across the Hudson to the present limits of Jersey City. In *Jersey City and its Historic Sites*, by Harriet Phillips Eaton, p. 22, it is stated that "on September 8, 1660, Jaques Cortelyou was ordered to survey Gemoenepa (Communipaw) and lay it out into village lots."

Winfield's *History of the Land Titles of Hudson County* contains references to the part which Jaques had in early Jersey City surveys. In these, the name "Bergen" is used, this being the original settlement, whose outlines are still discernable in Bergen Square and the streets immediately adjoining it in Jersey City. The references in question are as follows:

"The village of Bergen was laid out in 1660. It was laid out in a square surrounded by narrow streets, yet in existence, along which were erected the palisades. Within this enclosure all the inhabitants of the township were obliged to gather, except such as collected within the fortifications at Communipaw. The land within the town plot was laid out into building lots by Jaques Cortelyou, Town Surveyor, and numbered on the map. The land surrounding the town was laid out into larger lots, for garden or farm purposes and also numbered on a map. I have not been able to find these two maps."

THE COMING OF THE ENGLISH

Three times during Jaques Cortelyou's residence at the Narrows was New York captured by armed forces who swept in from the sea. The first was in 1664 when the British took over from the Dutch. The second was in 1673 when the short recrudescence of Dutch rule began. And the third was in 1674 when, after fourteen months, the British again came into power. Every one of these changes was tied in with events in Europe, too complicated for discussion here. But the story of the period is by no means a dry one and readers who follow it in John Fiske's *Dutch and Quaker Colonies in America*, will find themselves repaid.

Assuredly every one of these changes in sovereignty was vividly real to the family that looked out from the Najack home, close to the shore where the Narrows meet the Lower Bay. The 1664 transfer was the most dramatic of the three and, if Jaques was not away on one of his surveying trips, he found himself in the center of the excitement.

The storm clouds gathered in 1663 when a Captain Scott, leader of English elements living just beyond the Dutch sphere of influence on Long Island and backed by a troop of nearly 200 men, seized the blockhouse at New Utrecht. Following this there were fruitless negotiations and general turmoil as rumors flew about that the English planned to seize the Hudson Valley settlements. Stuyvesant was on his guard, but in 1664 the rumors subsided and other matters pressed for attention.

As Fiske puts it (*Ibid.*, vol I, pp.332.3):

"...the Director...was obliged to go up to Rensselaerwyck (Albany) where the red men were burning and scalping. The unquenchable feud between Mohawk and Mohigan had once more burst into flames, and some skulls of the Mohawks' white allies were cleft by the Mohigan tomahawks. While Stuyvesant was busy with this affair, a courier came spurring in wild haste to tell him that the English fleet had sailed from Boston and was hourly expected to show itself off Coney Island."

This time there was more than rumor and developments came rapidly. Stuyvesant got back to New Amsterdam on Monday, August 25 and set all the people to work on the defenses of the city.

On Tuesday a British man-of-war, H.M.S. "Guinea," stood in from the Atlantic and dropped her anchors near Najack.

On Thursday three more frigates, the "Elias," "Martin," and "William and Nicholas," joined the "Guinea," effectively blockading the Narrows. (*Staten Island and its People*, vol. I, pp. 111-12).

On Friday Stuyvesant referred to the latest comers when, in writing to the Dutch officials at Fort Orange, he said that the ships had "arrived and sailed together up into the Bay of Najack, where they remain at anchor." (*Iconography of Manhattan Island*, vol. IV, p. 240.) The same day Stuyvesant wrote to the British commander, asking why the hostile fleet continued in "the Harbour of Nayacy."

Across the Narrows, on the Staten Island shore and in plain view from Najack, stood a Dutch blockhouse, forerunner of the Fort Wadsworth of a later day. The Cortelyou children were too young to know what was transpiring, but the excitement of their elders may be imagined as boats were lowered and a detachment proceeded to Staten Island and seized the blockhouse.

It was a hopeless situation. There were less than 150 Dutch soldiers at the fort in New Amsterdam, supplemented by about 250 civilians capable of bearing arms. Against this, Colonel Nicolls, commander of the English expedition, is estimated to have had approximately 1,000 effectives, counting the men on the ships plus English sympathizers from New England and Long Island, who threatened the Dutch base by land. In the matter of ordinance, there was a similar preponderance on the side of the British, for the four frigates mounted some 120 guns, while Fort Amsterdam had only 20 with sufficient supplies of powder.

A week of hectic letter writing, parleying and remonstrance-signing followed, until on Tuesday, September 4, came the climax. Jaques Cortelyou perhaps saw the Englishmen land on the beach along Gravesend Bay and march away overland to the Brooklyn Ferry. Along with this, Jaques quite likely observed that two of the frigates were hoisting their anchors, making sail and proceeding through the Narrows.

As these vessels, with their guns trained on the fort, came opposite New Amsterdam, it was Nicasius de Sille, Jaques' neighbor at New Utrecht, who, together with the two

Dutch clergymen, stood at Stuyvesant's side and prevailed upon the doughty soldier to withhold the order to fire.

The flags were changed and Colonel Richard Nicolls governed wisely for four years, utilizing the Dutch governmental framework and appointing many Dutchmen to key positions. However, as John W. Leonard remarks in his *History of the City of New York 1609-1909*, p. 99:

"This...was the end of the Dutch government on the Island of Manhattan, and burgomaster, schout, and schepen gave way to the English plan of mayor, alderman, and sheriff; and the Dutch idea of trial by arbitration was succeeded by the English institution of trial by jury. The change was further emphasized by the requirement that the English language must henceforth be used in civic affairs."

This last provision is interesting so far as Jaques Cortelyou is concerned, for he had much to do with public affairs, served on various commissions with Englishmen, and must have mastered the language immediately, if, indeed, he had not already absorbed a knowledge of it.

The names of both the province and the city were changed to "New York." Long Island was called "Yorkshire," and divided, like the English shire of the same name, into an "East Riding" and a "West Riding." The of New Utrecht was unchanged, but Jaques found himself living in the "West Riding of Yorkshire."

Col. Frances Lovelace, who, in 1668, succeeded Nicolls as Governor, continued many of the policies of his predecessor until midsummer 1673, when the next change in sovereignty occurred.

The fleet that stood in past Sandy Hook this time was of a size unprecedented in New York's history. It flew the flag of the Netherlands, and of it Leonard (*History of the City of New York 1609-1909*, p. 107,) says:

"The fleet consisted of twenty-one sail, including nine men-of-war and twelve prize ships which had been captured in West Indian and Virginian waters. The fleet carried 1,600 soldiers and seamen... In the force were 150 marines under command of Captain Anthony Colve."

This array of vessels seems not to have anchored in Gravesend Bay, but to have run through to the northern end of the Narrows so that they were "under Staten Island & Anchored in sight of ye ffort."

The Dutch commanders dated their demand for surrender from "the ship *Swanenburgh*, anchored betwixt Staten and Long Island." The pattern of the 1673 capture follows that of 1664 very closely, including a near-panic among defenders, and caused Captain Manning, in charge of the English garrison, to order the Long Island militia officers "to draw your troops togeather and repaire towards Utrecht or Grauesend to observe the motion of the Enemy and make all the discouery or resistance you canne." (*Documentary History of New York*, III, p. 96).

In another way, too, the pattern was true to the earlier form. In 1664 the English fleet learned from English sympathizers around Gravesend what was going on ashore. In 1673 the Dutch fleet got its information when “several of ye Dutch went on Board them from Utrecht and fflatbush upon Long Island and Informed them of the absence of our Gouernor and weekness of our Garrison and ye number of our men.” (Ibid. p. 95).

History does not record the identity of the men of New Utrecht who boarded the Dutch vessels down the Bay, but Jaques usually knew what was going on and was likely aware of such clandestine doings along the New Utrecht waterfront.

With a little shooting and the killing and wounding of several men, New York went back under the Dutch flag. Captain Anthony Clove was appointed Governor and the name of Fort James was changed to Fort Willem Hendrick and the name of the town from New York to New Orange.

The shift back to English sovereignty in 1674 was without threats or shooting, being dictated from Europe as a condition of the Treaty of Westminster. This time there were three ships involved. First, on October 16, 1674, came the Dutch frigate “*Muyll Tromp*,” with mandatory orders to Clove to turn over the colony to the English. Then, on November 1 came H.M.S. “*Diamond*” with orders to assume the governorship. And during the few days that elapsed while details of the transfer were being worked out, he dated his letters “From on board his Maties Ship the Dyamond at Anchor neare Staten Island.”

Then on November 10, Governor Clove and his troops boarded the “*Tromp*,” clearing the way for Andros to assume the governorship. The latter wrote from the fort, renamed Fort James, wishing Clove a good voyage. As the “*Tromp*” faded from the sight of the Najack watchers, it meant the Jaques had seen the last of Dutch rule in America, now destined to continue for a full century under the flag of England.

LAND MATTERS AT HARLEM AND FORDHAM AND IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY

The settlements lying north of New York and extending from the Hudson River to Long Island Sound provided their share of disputes and problems concerning land titles. As a surveyor, Jaques Cortelyou was involved in many of these situations.

Today the journey from New Utrecht to Harlem, Fordham or Pelham can be accomplished by subway in a couple hours. But in the seventeenth century the distance must have seemed far greater, involving trips by sailboat on favoring tides or on horseback over the length of Manhattan Island.

Riker, in his *History of Harlem*, pp. 250-1, refers to Jaques as “Cortilleau, the surveyor who had first laid out the village.” In the early spring of 1666 it became essential to define the public grazing area for cattle belonging to the Harlem settlers. Therefore, Governor Nicolls, on March 20, 1665-6, wrote to Jaques, instructing him

to survey such a range. Riker says that this survey was expected by Nicolls to form the basis for drafting a patent.

AFFAIRS AT ESOPUS, 1669-1670

One of the most important Dutch settlements along the Hudson River was that at Esopus. Here, in what is not Ulster County, New York, were the villages of Kingston, Hurley, and Marbletown, known collectively as "the Esopus."

Governor Lovelace had not long been in office before he found that a general overhauling of land titles and other matters at Esopus was in order. This was approached by having the Executive Council appoint a Commission, made up in part of Esopus residents and in part of selected men from down the River.

Jaques Cortelyou functioned from first to last as a member of the Commission and as official surveyor under its direction. The story of this commission and its labors is to be found in *Executive Council Minutes, New York, Administration of Francis Lovelace, 1668-1673*.

VENDUE MASTER ON LONG ISLAND

The office of Vendue Master had definite recognition in the civil setup under both the Dutch and the English. In Dutch days, the office and its perquisites belonged, ex officio, to the Provincial Secretary, who performed it duties by deputy. O'Callaghan, in the *Register of New Netherland*, p. 114, lists the early deputies, indicating that, in 1672, Jaques Cortelyou was appointed Deputy Vendue Master for Long Island. O'Callaghan further states that on February 1, 1674, Francis de Bruyn was named to office "for the Five Dutch Towns on Long Island, vice Cortelyou."

CAPTAIN OF THE MILITIA UNDER TWO FLAGS

During the administration of Governor Francis Lovelace, in the first English regime, it is noticeable that Jaques was referred to rather consistently as "Captain," whereas until then he was plain "Mr." This title was used officially, as in his resignation as one of the Commissioners to go to Esopus. It, therefore, seems highly probable that around 1668 or 1669 a militia company was organized of which Jaques was Captain.

The above supposition is strengthened by the fact that when the colony again found itself under Holland jurisdiction in 1773, and a general scheme of militia was put in force for Long Island, Jaques Cortelyou was Captain of the Company for New Utrecht and Bushwick. In the militia establishment there were five Companies on Long Island: for Amersfoort, Midout, Brooklyn, New Utrecht and Bushwick combined, and Gravesend. For each company ther was a Captain, a Lieutenant and an Ensign. All these officers were elected by the Executive Council, "holden in Fort Willem Hendrick," on October 25, 1673.

FIRE AT NEW UTRECHT

Under any condition the loss of one's home is distressing, but in a pioneer settlement it is a calamity. In recounting their first visit to Jaques in 1679, the Labadists wrote in their *Journal*:

"We went looking around the country, and toward evening came to the village of New Utrecht... This village was burned down some time ago, with everything about it, including the house of this man (Jaques) which was almost half an hour distant from it. Many persons were impoverished by the fire. It was now almost all rebuilt and many good stone houses erected of which Jaques' was one."

Actually, the fire had taken place four years before the Labadists visit, but it was easy to see that it was still a major item of conversation. How could it happen that both the houses in the village and Jaques' distant and detached dwelling were burned at the same time is not clear, nor is the exact date recorded. It may be assumed, however, that that conflagration was of the brush fire or grass fire variety and it took place in the early spring of 1675.

In this regard, there was a "general order" given by Governor Andros (*Warrants, Orders, and Passes*, vol. III, p. 90):

"A recommendation in the behalfe of Capt. Jacques Corteleau, and the inhabitants of New Utrecht, to the Constables and Overseers of Bruyckline" – "Whereas, Capt. Corteleau, having (through misfortune by ffire) sustained great losses; and being intended speedily to build him another House, towards the effecting of which divers good and Charitable People (his Neighbors round about) have already contributed their Assistance. That the same may be Sooner accomplished, for his more comfortable accommodation, I do hereby recommend to you that you encourage the People of yor Towne, to assist him with one Daye's worke, toward perfecting the said Building, this or the next weeke, as he shall direct; and that you likewise assist his Neighbors, in the Neighboring Towne of New Utrecht, in their present distresse if requested thereunto by them, in the which you will do a good and Charitable worke. Given under my hand in New Yorke, the 1st day of May 1675. E. Andros"

Fifty schepels of winter wheat and fifty-eight schepels of peas were purchased by the justices from Daniel de Haert, for the use of the inhabitants, who probably lost most of their grain by the fire and were in danger of starvation.

ON THE BENCH OF THE COURT OF SESSIONS

When the Labadists made their second visit to Jaques in November 1679, one of the items on their docket was to inspect and copy the laws then in effect. This was entirely natural, for if the Labadists' proposed settlement was to be located under New York jurisdiction, it would be essential for them to take back to Holland information concerning the laws under which the settlers would have to live.

Jaques had the laws written in a large folio volume...translated from English into Dutch, and "very bad Dutch," at that. Instead of doing the copying at Jaques' home, Dankers and Sluyter borrowed the book and spent two half-days extracting the laws at their stopping place in New York City.

The reason for Jaques having this transcription of the provincial laws was that (1) he was a Justice of the Peace at New Utrecht and (2) as such, he was one of the Justices of the Court of Sessions of the West Riding of Yorkshire, as that section of western Long Island was then known.

A DEAL IN WHEAT AND KERSEY, 1687

Not all the business transactions in the colony were on a basis of primitive barter, but many were, and a good example of these is preserved in Book V of Deeds, p. 182, preserved at Albany. It involves the purchase by Jaques Cortelyou of a piece of "kersey" cloth from Thomas Thacher, to be paid for three months later by the delivery of twelve and a half bushels of wheat to Thomas Kellond, of Boston. The latter delivery was to be made "at the bridge" in New York – referring probably to the present day intersection of Bridge and Broad Streets, where in 1687, there was a bridge over the inlet running up the present line of Broad Street.

NEW YORK'S FIRST COMMUTER

Jaques Cortelyou's leadership in the settlement at New Utrecht, plus his long-time interest in land holdings on the Passaic River in New Jersey, qualify him as one of the first, if not the first, of New York's land developers. But, however this may be, it is pointed out in The Iconography of Manhattan Island, vol. II, pp. 211-3, that Jaques deserves distinction as New York's first commuter, forerunner of the millions who have since lived and still do live outside the metropolis but maintain their place of business in the city.

The reference is as follows:

"It is not known that Cortelyou owned any property on Manhattan Island, or ever resided there. He had an office on the Marketfield, in the little building (Block E. No. 4a), which he rented from Pieter Jacobsen Buys, and in which, there is hardly a doubt, the original of the Castillo Plan was prepared. The Kemble Building now covers the site.

His home, however, was always on Long Island, at New Utrecht, or at Nyack (near fort Hamilton), where he seems to have been living when the Labadists met him. Thus, Cortelyou may be considered a pioneer among New York commuters."

THE LABADISTS' FIRST VISIT

In 1697, two visitors came from Europe to the Hudson River settlements, which, though still very Dutch in thought and sympathies, were under the flag of England. These men, Jasper Dankers and Peter Sluyter, were from Friesland, a northwestern province of Holland. They were sent to America "with the view of ascertaining the nature of the country and government and selecting a suitable place for the establishment of a colony of the religious community to which they belonged... The members of the sect were known as Labadists, professing a kind of mysticism, regulating their lives by the divine light of the inner man and seeking to bring together all the elect of God, separate from the world into one visible church. ... In doctrine they held the tenets of the Dutch Reformed Church."

As keen observers and faithful chroniclers of all that they saw and did, no better delegates than Dankers and Sluyter could have been chosen. The atmosphere into which they came was not wholly sympathetic, for Ecclesiastical Records of the State of New York reveals frequent messages between the authorities of the Dutch Reformed Church in Holland and ministers and others in this country in which the Labadists group is mentioned disparagingly. But Dankers and Sluyter were able to establish friendly relations in most of the communities touched by their journey.

Fortunately the Labadists kept a journal, a good one. (The narrative of Dankers and Sluyter was discovered in Holland by Hon. C. Murphy, who translated it into English. It was published as a book, including copies of the pen sketches which accompanied the original manuscript, in 1867, by the Long Island Historical Society. This is entitled "*Journal of a Voyage to New York and a Tour in Several of the American Colonies in 1679-80*, by Jasper Dankers and Peter Sluyter, of Wiewerd, in Friesland.) And, fortunately, they visited Jaques Cortelyou's home, not once only but several times. Thus, there has been preserved a peculiarly intimate description of these visits with reference to many of the details of everyday life.

There was a reason for the appearance of Dankers and Sluyter at the New Utrecht house. When the ship *Charles*, on which they crossed, cleared from Falmouth, England, on July 21, 1679, one of their fellow passengers was Gerrit Van Duyne, whose sister Neeltje was the wife of Jaques Cortelyou. Gerrit was a wheelwright and carpenter and had lived for many years in America, but on this trip he had left his wife and children at Zwolle, Holland. The summer voyage lasted for nine weeks, long enough in such cramped quarters as the *Charles* afforded and also long enough for a close acquaintance to be established between Gerrit Van Duyne and the two friars, as they are sometimes called. Of course, Gerrit told the Labadists about the Long Island villages, and especially the settlement at New Utrecht, of which his brother-in-law, Jaques Cortelyou, was one on the leading spirits. He said he would take them to Long Island and, as will be seen, he made good on his promise.

As the *Charles* drew in past Sandy Hook there was great excitement on her decks. She was a little ship with a crew totaling only ten men, including the skipper. Moreover, she was vermin infested, poorly found, and dominated by a cantankerous woman owner who was on board. To cross the ocean under such conditions was an experience involving many hardships. Thus, everybody was eager to get off and the passengers for Long Island would have liked to be put ashore at the Hoofden, as the Narrows was called. But the captain would have none of such arrangement and insisted upon running up to the anchorage in the East River.

It was four o'clock in the afternoon when the ship "fortunately arrived, but the blessing of God, before the city of New York, on Saturday, the 23rd of September" 1679. Gerrit Van Duyne, acting as guide and constantly stopping along the streets to greet his old acquaintances, led Dankers and Sluyter to the home of his father-in-law, Jacob Hellekers Swart. This Jacob was one of the old-timers in the colony.

After spending a week resting under the hospitable roof of "the old people," as Dankers calls Jacob Hellekers Swart and his wife, Gerrit and the two travelers, on Friday, September 29, crossed the ferry to Brooklyn and made their way to the home of Simon Aertsen DeHart, at Gowanus. There they were cordially entertained and spent the night. The following morning they proceeded to Najack, or Nyack, to visit Jaques. Here the story is taken up in their own words:

"30th, Saturday. Early this morning the (DeHart) husband and wife set off for the city with their marketing; and we, having explored the land in the vicinity, left after breakfast. We went a part of the way through a woods and fine, new made land, and along the shore to the west end of the island called Najack. As we proceeded along the shore, we found, among other curiosities, a highly marbled stone, very hard, in which we saw Muscovy glass lying in layers between the clefts, and how it was struck or cut out. We broke off a small piece with some difficulty and picked out a little glass in the splits.

Continuing on from there, we came to the plantation of the Najack Indians, which was planted with maize, or Turkish wheat. The Indians lived on the land of Jaques (Cortelyou), brother-in-law of Gerrit. He bought the land from them in the first instance and then let them have a small corner for which they pay him twenty bushels of maize yearly; that is, ten bags. Jaques had bought the whole of Najack from these Indians, who were the lords thereof, and lived upon the land, which is a large place, and afterwards bought it again, in parcels.

He was unwilling to drive the Indians from the land and has therefore left them a corner of it, keeping the best for himself. We arrived then upon this land, which is all good, and yields large crops of wheat and other grain. It is of a blackish color, but not clayey, and almost like the garden mould I have seen in Holland.

At length we reached the house where we found Mons. LeGrange, who had come in search of us to inform us further concerning his departure for the South River (the Delaware), and to take us to his house. We spoke to him in regard to this and other matters, as was proper, and shortly afterward he left.

Jaques is a man advanced in years. He was born in Utrecht, but of French parents, as we could readily discover from all his actions, looks and language. He had studied philosophy in his youth, and spoke Latin and good French. He was a mathematician and sworn land surveyor. He had also formerly learned several sciences, and had some knowledge of medicine. The worst of it was, he was a good Cartesian (follower of Descartes) and not a good Christian, regulating himself and all externals by reason and justice only. Nevertheless, he regulated all things better by these principles than most people in these parts do who bear the name of Christians or pious persons.

His brother-in-law and ourselves were welcomed by him and his wife. They treated us with every civility, although two of his sons being sick, and he very much confined in attending upon them, he was interrupted in attending to us, since they more than we afflicted his head and that of his wife.

We went looking around the country and towards evening came to the village of New Utrecht, so named by him (Jaques). This village was burned down some time ago, with everything about it, including the house of his man, which was almost half an hour distant from it. Many persons were impoverished by the fire. It was now almost all rebuilt and many good stone houses were erected, of which Jaques' was one, where we returned by another road to spend the night.

After supper we went to sleep in the barn, upon some straw spread with sheepskins, in the midst of the continual grunting of hogs, squealing of pigs, bleating and coughing of sheep, barking of dogs, crowing of cocks, cackling of hens, and especially a goodly quantity of fleas and vermin, of no small

portion of which we were participants; and all with an open barn door, through which a fresh northwest wind was blowing. Though we could not sleep, we could not complain inasmuch as we had the same quarters and kind of bed as their own son usually had, who had now on our arrival crept into the straw behind us.

October 11, Sunday. We went this morning on a tour of observation of the country and of the neighbors, some of whom were better situated than others, but all of them had more or less children sick with the smallpox, which, next to the fever and ague, is the most prevalent disease in these parts and of which many have died. We went into one house where there were two children lying dead and unburied, and three others sick, and where one had died the week before. This disease was more fatal this year than usual. We spoke to these afflicted people what was suitable and they could bear.

Finding myself afterwards alone upon a small eminence, I made a sketch, as well as I could, of the land surrounding the great bay, that is: "Coney Island, the entrance from the sea, Renssalaers Hook, and so further to the right, towards Kil van Kol.

After dinner we intended to leave for a place called The Bay (Flatland, the residenc eof Elbert Elbertsen Stoothoff, father-in-law Jan Theunissen Van Duyckhuysen), where Jan Theunissen, our fellow passenger (on the ship Charles) lived, who had made up great promises of friendship. Besides, my companion was desirous, as they said there would be preaching, to hear the minister of the island, who was very zealous. But Jaques persuaded us from it because the house where Jan Theunissen lived with his father was so full of people on Sundays who came from all directions to attend preaching that you could scarcely get in or out. As the minister was not in the village where he dwelt, he remained over with many other persons, and he (Jaques) said he would accompany us thither the next morning.

So we let it (the trip to church) pass and took another walk to New Utrecht, where we drank some good beer a year old and coming back again to the house, indulged in peaches on the road.

4th Wednesday. We slept for the night in our old place. In the morning the horses were harnessed to the wagon for the purpose of carrying us to the city and bringing back some medicines that had arrived for him (Jaques) from Holland in our ship.

It is plain to see that the Labadists liked Jaques. It is also fairly clear that Jaques liked them. Certainly there was nothing lacking in the warmth of the welcome which Jaques and Neeltje extended to their visitors on this and subsequent visits.

The strenuous years must have left their imprint upon Jaques, for though he was perhaps not older than fifty-five, he is described as "advanced in years." His French appearance and characteristics, his educational background, his religious beliefs, his bent for mathematics, and his practical knowledge of medicine are all well reflected in the *Journal*. Likewise, his evident consideration for the Indians who were the former proprietors of the Najack tract may be placed to Jaques' credit.

It is not surprising that Jaques and Neeltje were distracted by worry about their two sick children. The terror that epidemics brought to pioneer settlements is to be felt in Dankers' description of the smallpox. No doubt it was this dread disease that found its way to the Cortelyou home, just as it had to the homes of the neighbors. It may be guessed that Cornelis and Pieter were the children who were sick, and that it was Jaques, the oldest son, who slept in the barn with the Labadists so as not to be exposed to the sickness.

No doubt the Labadists talked earnestly with Jaques about their commission to find a suitable place for colonization by members of their sect. This underlying purpose of their trip is reflected by the detailed observations of things such as soil, natural fruits, and topography. Naturally, they must have looked over the western end of Long Island with a thought of its fitness for their purpose, but they perhaps concluded that the Dutch and English settlements were too numerous.

Jaques told Dankers and Sluyter – as is apparent from the subsequent context – about a tract of land which he and other Long Islanders had bought in New Jersey. This was at Aquakonock and so alluring was the word picture of the location and natural resources of the area that the Labadists determined to investigate it first hand. No doubt they quizzed Jaques about the Hudson River settlements and the region of the earlier Swedish settlements on the Delaware, or South River, as it was called.

THE LABADISTS' SECOND VISIT

Dankers and Sluyter were an energetic pair and deserved credit for the vigor with which they pressed toward making a comprehensive reconnaissance of the middle colonies. Jaques Cortelyou had, as they say in their Journal, "related wonders" concerning the underdeveloped land at Aquakanock – both the 24,000 acre tract of which he was part owner and also the adjoining areas, which the New Jersey Indians were disposed to sell at a small price. This New Jersey region promised many advantages and they were eager to inspect it. But, though the distance was not great, the journey was difficult to arrange. A guide was needed and they wanted to take Gerrit Van Duyne because of his fluency in the Indian language. Gerrit, too, was desirous of making the trip as Jaques Cortelyou had promised to give him as much of the acreage as he would cultivate. Gerrit, however, was busy and later he could not go because of a sore leg.

On this subject, there was much discussion between Jaques and the Labadists. Based on the details from the *Journal*, it is apparent that Jaques and the Labadists discussed the details of such a trip over an evening meal of fish and game at the Cortelyou house. Perhaps in addition to a review of the day's happenings and the projected itinerary of the two travelers, Jaques gave a picture of the future as he envisioned it – for his children, for the location he had chosen at Najack, for the colony of New York, for the string of European settlements along the American seaboard.

It is to be noted that in the six weeks interval since the first visit of the Labadists, the smallpox epidemic appears to have run its course and that the two boys in the Cortelyou household who had it were fully recovered. Jaques' interest in medicine, previously evidenced by his having sent a special order to Holland for drugs, again comes to surface through his presentation of medicinal roots to Dankers and Sluyter.

THE LABADISTS' THIRD VISIT

After their second sojourn at Najack, the two travelers were finally able to make their journey to the South River. They returned to the Cortelyou homestead in January 1680 and were no sooner recovered from their strenuous trip than they again began to cast about for means to inspect the land at Aquakanock. The desire of the Labadists to inspect the Aquakanock area is so strong that readers of the *Journal* cannot help sympathizing with them. "Snow, frost, rain, and inclement weather" and the difficulty of finding transportation and a guide continued as obstacles till the beginning of March. At last the effort to get to Aquackonock was successful. The travelers left Simon DeHart's house at Gowanus in a boat with Gerrit Van Duyne at eight o'clock Monday morning, March 4.

The explorers got back to Gowanus Wednesday night, full of excitement over what they had seen and eager to go on to Najack to report to Jaques. This plan, however, did not work out and it was not until May that they could make what turned out to be their fourth and final visit at the Cortelyou homestead.

THE LABADISTS' FOURTH VISIT

If the Labadists' *Journal* were a work of fiction, instead of a setting forth of facts, it could not have been better planned to lead up to a climax in supplying a picture of Jaques Cortelyou. Not only have Dankers and Sluyter set down many homely details concerning the daily routine of life in the Long Island Dutch towns, but on their final visit an incident occurred which brings out in strong perspective the qualities of Jaques which may well be a matter of pride to his descendants. The narrative is taken up with the two travelers at Flatlands, at the home of Elbert Elbertse Stoothoff and his son-in-law, Jan Tuenissen Van Dueyckhuyzen:

"May 9th, 1680. Thursday. At the Bay, where we arrived at noon. We found there Gerrit, the wheelwright. Jan Theunissen soon came from the fields, but as the father was not at home, we had to tarry, although we had intended to go to Najack.

10th. Friday. The morning was rainy and we could not go out early. But the weather became better after breakfast, about nine o'clock, when we took our leave and left for Najack, where we arrived at eleven o'clock at Jaques'. He had been sick with a large ulcer on his neck, but that was now better. We were welcome.

Among other matters, he told us that he had heard the report about our Theunis, but he did not know what to believe or think of it. We told him the whole truth about it, as he was capable of believing it. Theunis had formerly lived in that neighborhood and Jaques at that time had missed a cow, which was pasturing in the woods with the other cattle, as they always do. They made a thorough search after her, but could not find her. Although Jaques had some suspicion of Theunis, he did not manifest it even to those who spoke to him about Theunis in connection with the subject.

It happened that Theunis came to Jaques' house, whereupon Jaques embraced the opportunity and took him to the shore near the house. After talking of various matters, Jaques spoke to him about his cow, how she was carried off and that they never could hear anything about her. He then began to push Theunis a little closer, who laughed at it heartily at first. But by hard pressing and proofs which Jaques gradually brought forward, and especially by appeals to his conscience, whether he had not

the fear of God before his eyes, Theunis acknowledged he had done it, and , falling on his knees, prayed for forgiveness. He had stolen the cow and killed her.

Jaques, who is one of the Justices, said: 'I forgive you from the bottom of my heart. But I do this only to cause you to reflect and desist from your wickedness, and to show you that you do not know or fear God, and that you may fear him more.' Whereupon Theunis was much affected and went away thoroughly subdued, while Jaques was rejoiced that he had had the opportunity of relieving his mind about Theunis. Jaques, who had known Theunis from his youth up, said he had been a very godless person, cursing and swearing, and in a word, living in direct hostility to God. We told Jaques that better things were now to be expected of him, at which Jaques was pleased.

We dined at Jaques' and his little son came and presented to us a hummingbird that he had shot.

Jaques impressed us very much with his sincerity and cordiality in everything we had to do with him, or wherein he could be of any service to us. We left him the little book which we had lent him, and which he said he had found much pleasure in reading – *Les Pensees de M. Pascal*.

Shortly after their fourth visit to Jaques, the two travelers made their way to Boston, whence they returned to Holland, arriving in October 1680. When they reappeared in New York in the summer of 1683, they had a group of new settlers with them, en route for the new Labadist community at Bohemia Manor, on the Maryland-Delaware boundary. It would seem highly probable that Dankers and Sluyter had some contact with Jaques then, but no diary or other records have come to light to verify this.

LAND HOLDINGS ON THE PASSAIC

For a period of perhaps fifteen years, and possibly longer, Jaques was actively concerned with a land development project in northern New Jersey in the vicinity of present day Passaic. At the start, Jaques was the leading spirit in a group of Long Island Dutchmen, who purchased the tract from the Indians prior to 1679-80 and secured a patent for it from the Governor and Council of East New Jersey in 1681.

Then, the first patent having lapsed because of non-settlement of the tract, Jaques was named in a new patent in 1687 as one of a mixed group of nine persons from Long Island, Staten Island, New Jersey and New York City, who again undertook a settlement project. The acreage varies in the several descriptions and the boundaries may not always have been identical. But we know that from the Labadists' narrative that Jaques was full of enthusiasm as to the potentialities of the area.

Gerrit Van Duyn had also spoken favorably to Dankers and Sluyter of the Passaic River tract, and as he was personally acquainted with the property and knew some of the Indians who lived upon it and could speak their language, it was natural that he should be looked to as a guide for an inspection trip.

How it came about that Jaques knew of the Passaic River tract in the first instance is not clear. He may have investigated this backwoods section of New Jersey during

van Werckhoven's day. Or he may have scouted over the ground on his own initiative.

THE JOURNEY'S END

The exact date of Jaques Cortelyou's death is not known. Jaques died before July 27, 1693, when a power of attorney was executed by "Neeltje van Duyn of New Utrecht, widow of Jaques Corteljau, deceased, to her sons Jaques and Pieter to settle the estate of their late father." (*Calendar of Historical Manuscripts.*) It seems likely that Jaques died in June or early July, for the *MS History of New Utrecht*, pp. 722-725, gives the text of a mutual agreement concerning the settlement of their father's estate, signed on July 24th by the surviving sons and daughters of Jaques.

In due course an inventory of Jaques' possessions was taken by "Jan Van Cleef and John Van Dyck, inhabitants of New Utrecht." This inventory was dated January 20, 1693/4, and was sworn to before "Roeloffs Martinse Schenck, one of their Majestie's Justices of the Peace." It was attested by Anthony Van Pelt, Constable of New Utrecht and entered by Johannes Van Ekelen, Clerk of New Utrecht, January 25, 1693/4. (*Abstracts*, I, p. 231... *Wills, Liber 5-6*, p. 18.)

The inventory is given below. Superficially, it is merely a list of small stock of farming implements and household goods. For anyone interested in the vicissitudes of Jaques' life, however, the inventory is much more than that, for it shows the items that he and Neeltje had been able to assemble during their busy career. In fact, a careful perusal of this inventory is equivalent to a prowl around the Najack premises, indoors and out, for every line represents something with which Jaques and Neeltje were familiar, with which the children had grown up, and which was typical of the life of the period.

Inventory of estate of Jacques Cortiliow...

1. A Negro man and Negro woman.
2. 1 Horse, 3 Mares, 2 of one year, 1 Colt.
3. 10 Cows, 5 of 3 years, 4 of 1 year, 6 calves.
4. 6 Sheep.
5. 1 Wagon and Yron (Iron).
6. 2 Plows and 1 English plowshare.
7. A Harrow with Yron teethes.
8. 3 Axes, 2 Grobbin hows (Grubbing Hoes), 3 Weeding hows, 1 Spade.
9. 2 Dungh forkes, 3 Pitchforkes, 3 Wedges, 3 Lights.
10. 2 Yron horse hopples, 6 wagon bitts.
11. 1 Yorn Crow (bar).
12. A grain stone.
13. 3 Beds, 3 Pillows, 2 Roges (Robes?), 3 Blankets.
14. 2 paire of bed sheets, 3 paire of pillow Blates.
15. A cubbornigh (cupboard), 2 tables, 12 Sheares (Chairs), old ones.
16. A Churan (Churn), 8 Milk Tobs, 2 washing tobs, 4 milk Casks.
17. 6 pales, a bake trogh (trough), 2 wooden dishes, 6 empty barrels.
18. A beefe Caske, another beefe Caske.
19. 4 pewter plates, 22 pewter plates, a pewter pott.
20. 10 pewter spoons, 5 pewter porringers, a pewter chimmal pott.

21. 2 bras Ketels, a Red one, a Yellow one.
22. 1 bras morter.
23. A bras candlestick, a bras spoone, a bras Scummers.
24. A bras warming pan, a bras stewpan, a small bras skillet.
25. 2 Yron Ketels and 2 yron potts, a cuttingh knife.
26. An yron frieing pan, 2 yron haughels, a hang yron.
27. A wastingh yron, an yron spoone, an yron Roast pan.
28. 2 pair tongs, a Roastingh Spitt.
29. 9 earthen plates, 6 earthen dishes, 2 earthen potts.
30. 2 small earthen potts.
31. A Bible and 3 score old books.
32. An old fishing nett, 8 old corn bags.

In presence of the Constables of New Utrecht, Anthony Van Pelt
 The marke of Anthony (X) Van Pelt
 The marke of John (X) van Cleef
 The marke of John (X) Van Dyck
 And in the presence of mee Johannes Van Ekelen, Clercq of N. Utrecht.

The list is interesting for what it does show and also for what it does not show. Bergen, the compiler, for example, calls attention to the fact that there is no entry for Jaques' surveying instruments and suggest that these had perhaps been given to his son, Pieter, who had followed him in the profession of land surveying. Another omission is that of any mention of crops, clothing, boats, or poultry.

JAQUES' OFFICES AND HONORS

Among the offices and honors held by Jaques Corteljou, aside from that of Surveyor General, his main job, were the following:

1. He and Johannes Nevius were commissioned by the Orphan Masters of New Amsterdam to be guardians and tutors of the twelve-year old orphan of Stoffel Harmensen (May 11, 1657).
2. Appointed Schout (1654 but declined)
3. Appointed Vendue Master (Vendumeester), May 4, 1672.
4. Justice of the peace, 1675 to 1693. *MS History of New Utrecht* states: "Find no record for 1680-85 and 1689-92, but suppose he held the office."
5. Judge, court of common pleas and sessions; appointed 1689.
6. Captain of Militia.